

740 2

The INDIAN



Army

A.B.C.

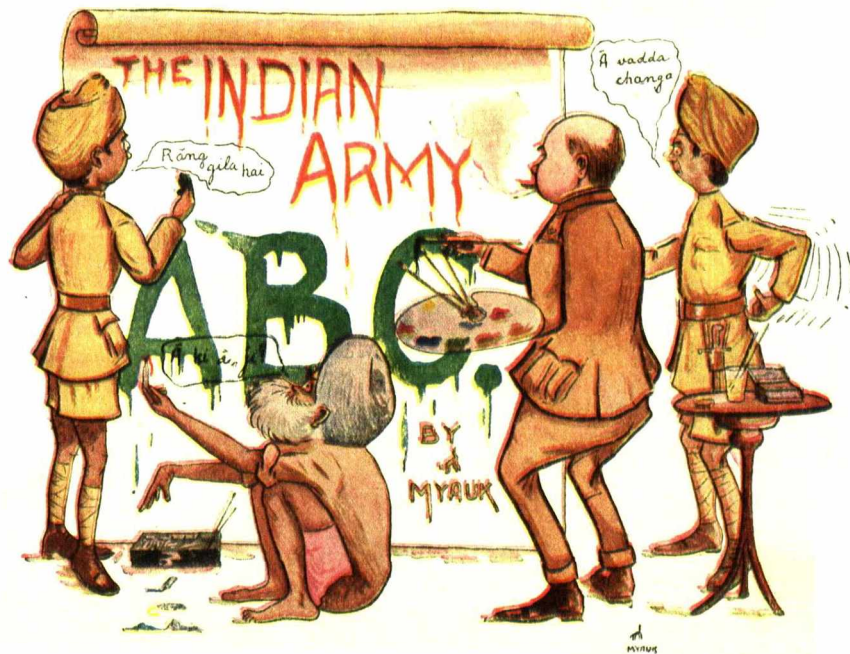
Being a record of some of those depressing events
that occur in the daily life of every Officer of the
INDIAN ARMY.



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THE INDIAN
ARMY
ABC.



16281

Dedicated

BY KIND PERMISSION

TO

SIR HARVEY ADAMSON, Kt.,

K.C.S.I., I.C.S.

PREFACE.

DEAR READERS,

A few words as to the *raison d'être* of this booklet may not be out of place.

Many a time and oft since joining the Indian Army have I been struck by the abysmal ignorance of "hoi polloi" as to the daily life of an officer in that glorious department. It seemed to me that too much could not be known of the subject by the general public, and after long consideration I decided to take it upon myself to turn on the necessary searchlight. The interest of the aforementioned "hoi polloi," said I to myself, will be best aroused by a series of stirring Indian military pictures depicting scenes taken from actual experience, and accompanied by arresting and apt quotations from the works of our foremost poets. But here arose a difficulty. The late Poet Laureate, having joined the majority, was not available; and though the couplets in this book will be universally ascribed to him, I hasten to inform you that they are scintillating gems which I was, in my extremity, forced to extract from the vast jewel-case of my own brain.

Now, if I may be allowed to say a few words as to my individual fitness for the task of producing this book, I would beg to point out that I am qualified by a military heredity. My great-uncle, the great General Sir W. Ashout (who suffered during the latter years of his service from convergent strabismus and pronounced and chronic hepatic nodules), revolutionised the musketry of his day by the substitution of Palaeolithic for Devonian flints in the sparking plugs of the

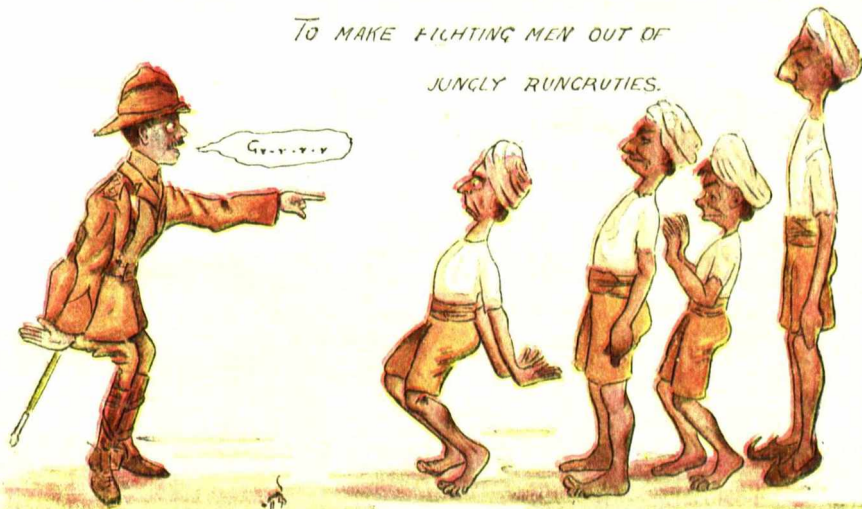
arquebus (Mark IV. * d/10.3.1702, 500,000, W. & S.), whilst my grandfather will long be remembered as the inventor of the modern Emergency Ration, which consists of two adamantine cakes of discoloured granite, the one labelled "Soup," and the other "Chocolate." Both are entirely insoluble in water, and are so devised as to be usable either as ammunition for a fougass, or in larger quantities, as metal for what are known as "10 minute roads" (the type of thoroughfare now universally adopted by the Public Works Department).

Lastly, my uncle on my mother's side, a famous General of Bengal Engineers, originated the method, now exclusively employed by the 'sepoy, of making fine adjustments in the machinery of a maxim gun or heliograph by means of the head of a pickaxe. However, great as was his influence with the *personnel* of the Native Army, he failed, during a career of over 40 years, to attain the ambition of his life, which was to educate the sepoy to such a pitch of erudition as to enable him to take up any photograph and at once regard it right side up.

Suffering, as he did, from the ravages of an insidious disease induced by a taste for a little known Eastern drug, yclept by apothecaries C_2H_5OH , the immediate cause of his sudden dematerialisation was one Ganda Singh, a sepoy, who, when shown by my uncle a photograph of the latest "Dreadnought," held it upside down, and thoughtfully remarked, "Bahut achcha bāngla."



A^r S THE ADJĒTANT—HIS PRINCIPAL DUTY'S
TO MAKE FIGHTING MEN OUT OF
JUNGLY RUNCRUTIES.



JA
5.10

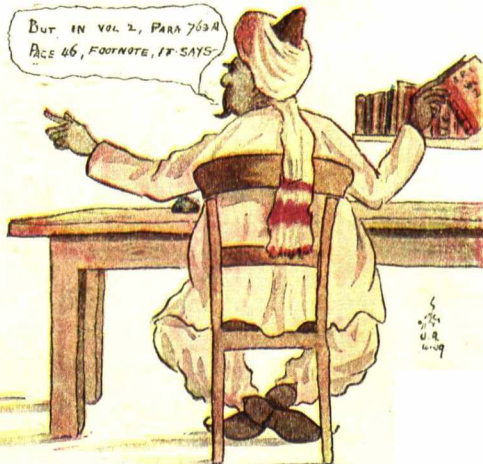
B IS THE BABUJI— DON'T LET HIM START.

OR HE'LL SPOUT YOU THE WHOLE
OF "VOL. 2" OFF BY HEART.

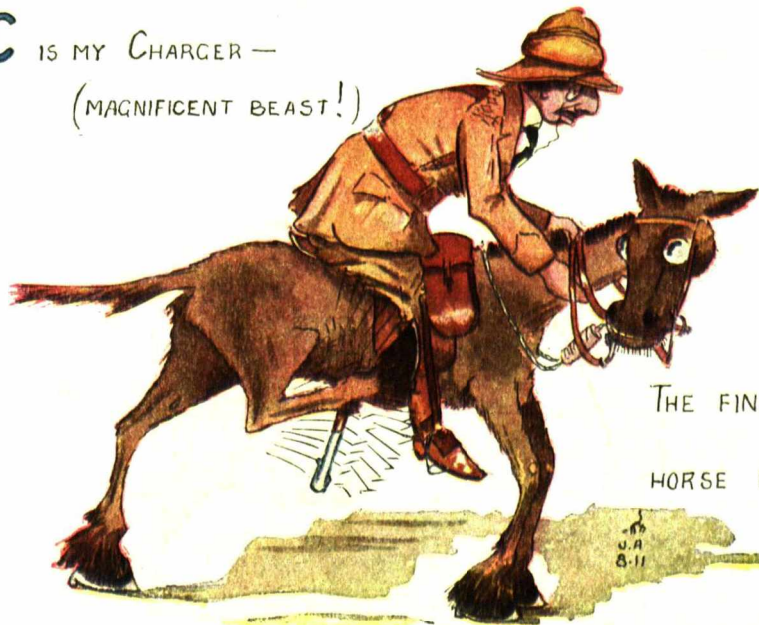
HELP! HELP!!



BUT IN VOL. 2, PARA 763A
PAGE 46, FOOTNOTE, IT SAYS—



C IS MY CHARGER —
(MAGNIFICENT BEAST!)

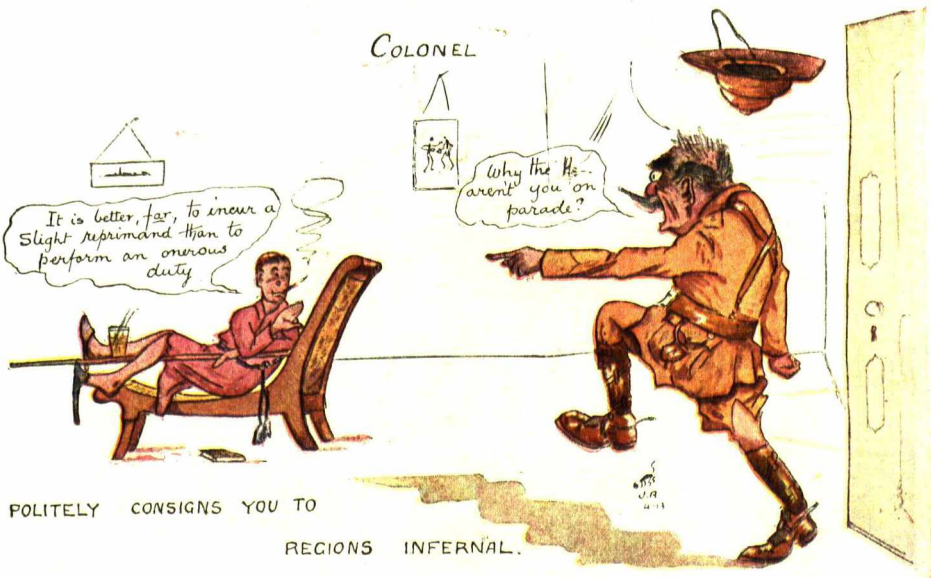


THE FINEST "IRREGULAR"
HORSE IN THE EAST.

56
J.A.
8-11

D IS YOUR DUTY. IF YOU SHIRK IT, THE

COLONEL

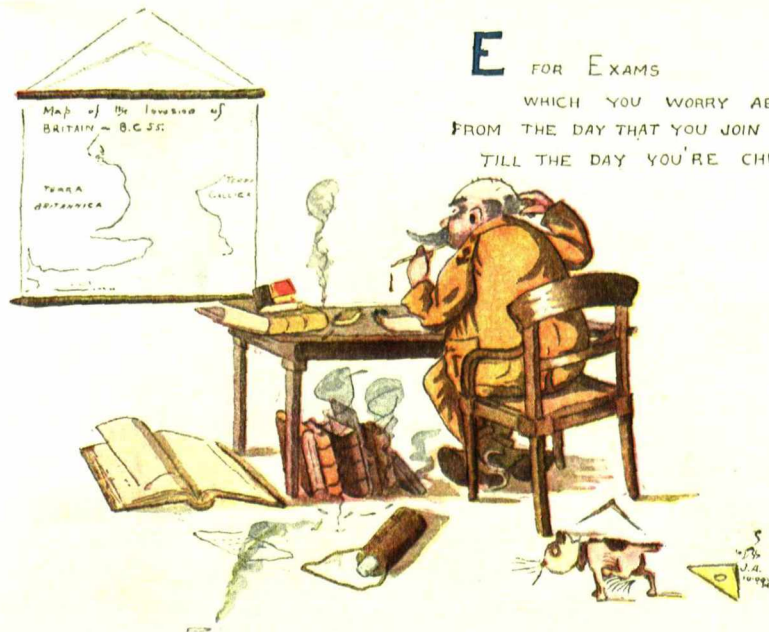


POLITELY CONSIGNS YOU TO

REGIONS INFERNAL.

E FOR EXAMS

WHICH YOU WORRY ABOUT
FROM THE DAY THAT YOU JOIN
TILL THE DAY YOU'RE CHUCKED OUT.

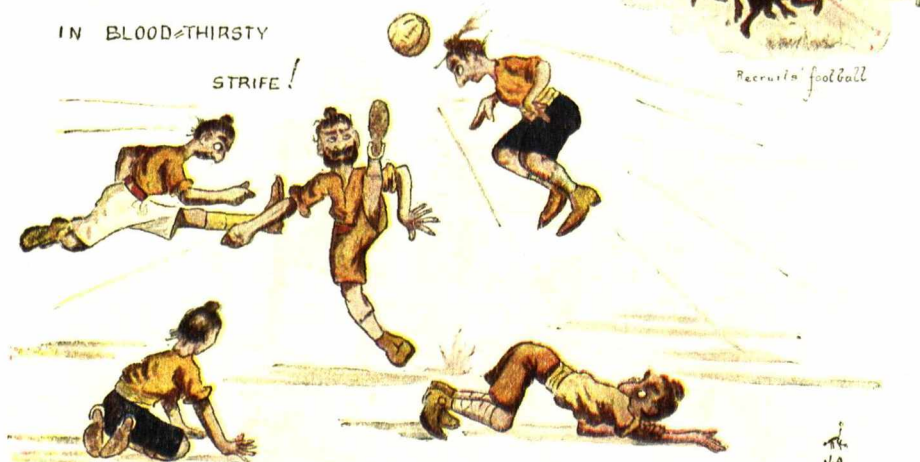


F IS FOR FOOTBALL; IF TIRED OF LIFE

YOU CAN DIE LIKE A SOLDIER

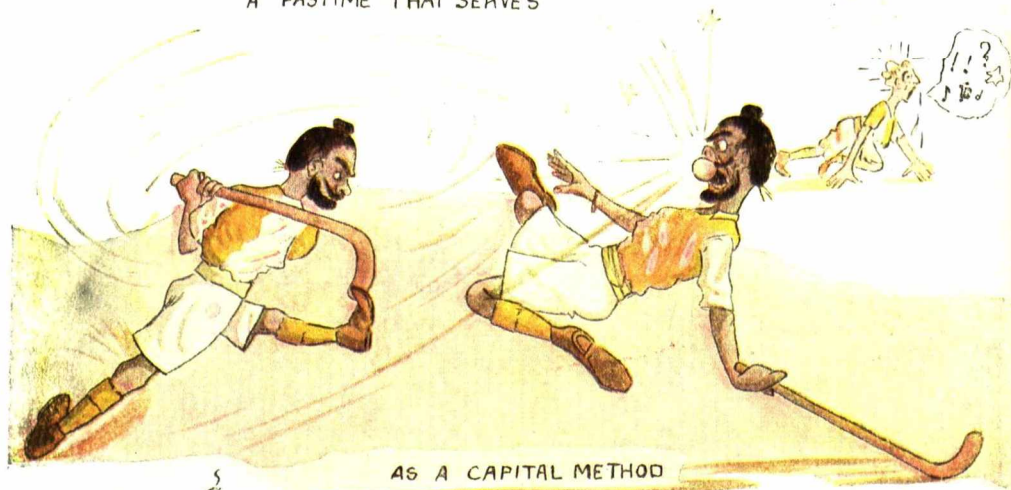
IN BLOOD-THIRSTY

STRIFE!





H STANDS FOR **H**OCKEY
A PASTIME THAT SERVES

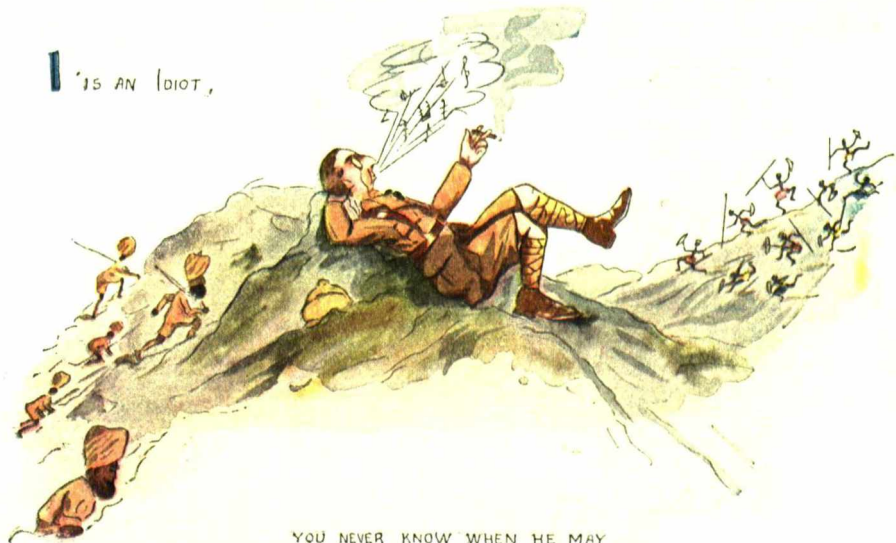


AS A CAPITAL METHOD

OF TESTING THE NERVES.

S
J.A.
409

1 'IS AN IDIOT,



YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN HE MAY

GIVE YOUR POSITION AWAY TO THE ENEMY.

J FOR THE JEMADAR ADJUTANT; HERE

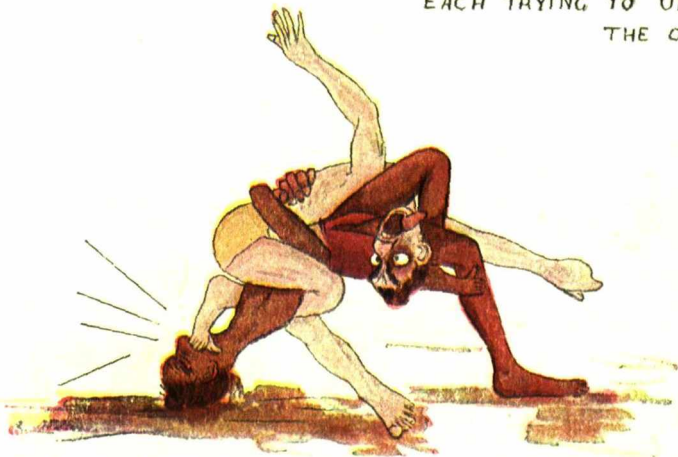


WE SEE HIM INSPIRING

A SEPOY WITH FEAR.

K IS FOR "KUSHTI"—

WE HERE SEE TWO SEPOYS—
EACH TRYING TO UPSET
THE OTHER'S EQUIPOISE.



JA
1A-1

L IS A FOLLOWER KNOWN AS A "LANGRI" —

HE APPEARS ON THE SCENE

WHEN THE SEPOYS ARE HUNGRY



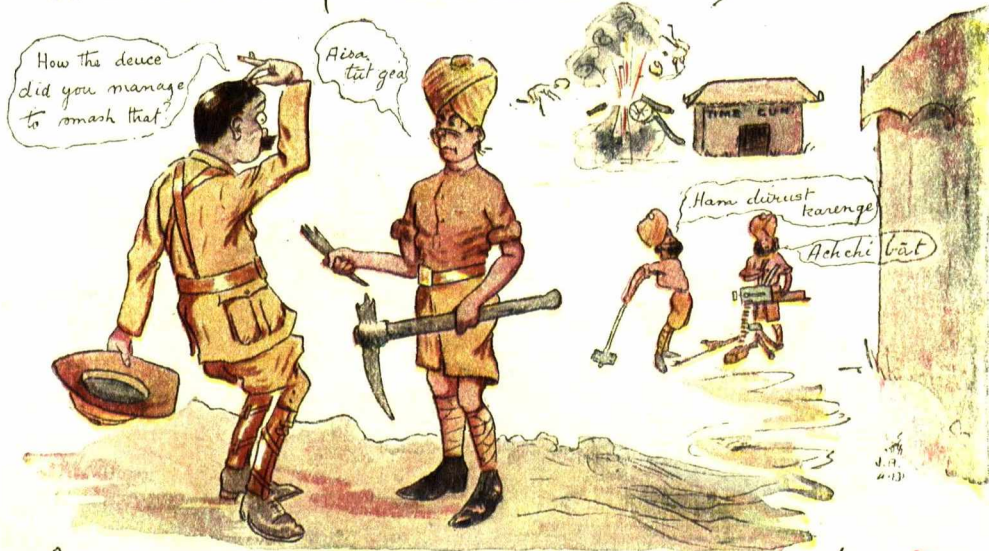
M FOR M.I. THAT MOST MOBILE OF FORCES



WHICH WORKS, NOW AND THEN,
QUITE APART FROM ITS HORSES.

(
J.A.
8.11

N IS FOR "NAKAS" (AS WE SHOULD SAY "BUST")



A SEPOY WILL SMASH EVEN CHILLED STEEL TO DUST!

O FOR STAFF-OFFICER - BOW YE THE
HEAD

TO THIS BEING CELESTIAL IN
TAPPETS OF RED.



P IS THE POW-WOW TO WHICH I MIGHT MENTION,
NOBODY PAYS THE LEAST BIT OF ATTENTION.



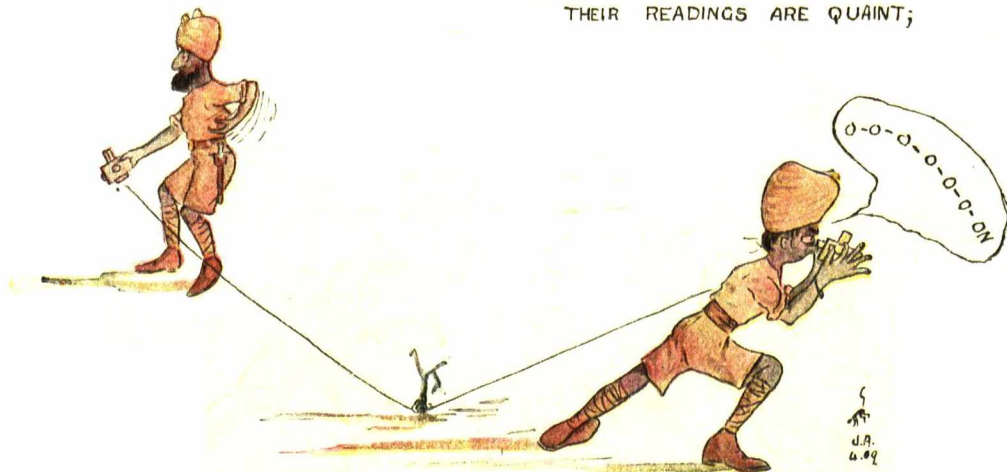
Q IS THE QUIT, WHICH IS USED BY THE SIKHS
FOR SENDING THEIR ENEMIES
OVER THE STYX.



S
JAN
6-95

R, FOR THE RANGE-FINDERS—

THEIR READINGS ARE QUAIN'T;



SOME OF 'EM MAY BE RIGHT—

MOST OF 'EM AIN'T.

S FOR SHIKAR, WHICH ENLIVENS

OUR LEISURE,



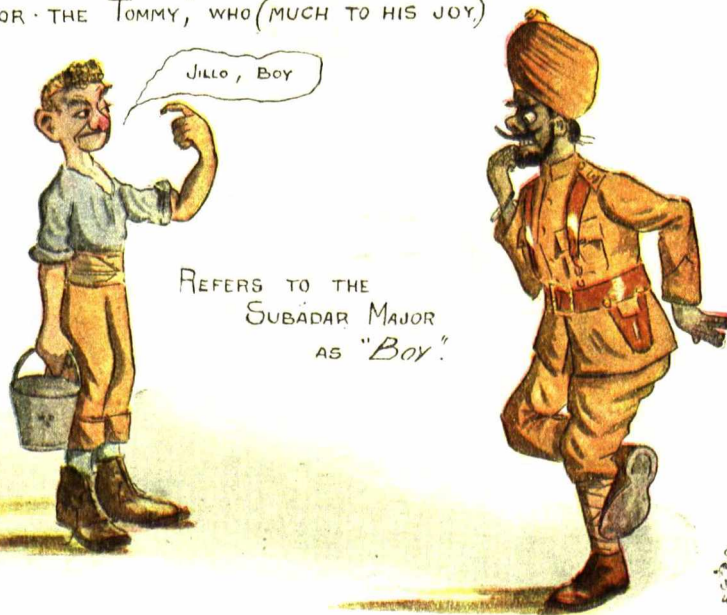
BUT SOMETIMES IT'S RATHER A

STRENUOUS PLEASURE.

T, FOR THE TOMMY," WHO (MUCH TO HIS JOY)

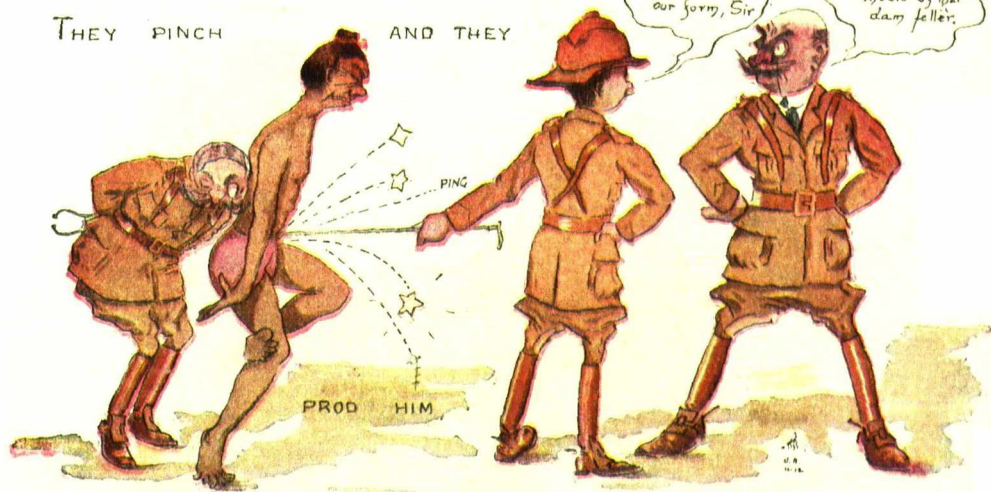
Jillo, Boy

REFERS TO THE
SUBADAR MAJOR
AS "Boy."



U'S THE "UMEDWAR" JUST FRESH FROM HIS "BASTI":

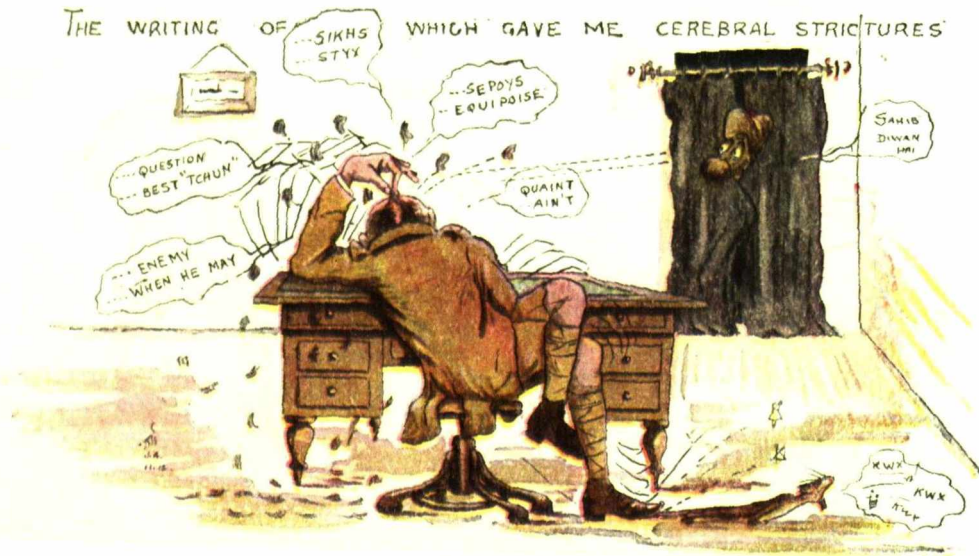
THEY PINCH AND THEY



TO SEE IF HE'S LUSTY.

V FOR THE VERSES THAT GO WITH THESE PICTURES,

THE WRITING OF WHICH GAVE ME CEREBRAL STRICTURES



W FOR WORD OF COMMAND—
THERE'S NO QUESTION,



TCHEN - AJBER



THAT MONGST THE N.O.S
THE S.M. GIVES THE BEST "TCHUN

5
J.A.
4 109

X IS AN ASININE SORT OF A LETTER ; NO WORDS BEGIN WITH IT, (SO MUCH THE BETTER.)

Y FOR THE YOUTH WHO WITH PITYING
SNIGGERS,

LOOKS ON OUR SEPOYS AS



SO MANY

"NIGGERS".

Z IS FOR ZERO—THE BALANCE OF PAY

I USUALLY DRAW ON EACH RECKONING DAY!



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S
12-11-13
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